

August 6, 2023

Question 64: What is the invisible Church?

Answer: The invisible Church is the whole number of the elect, that have been, are, or shall be gathered into one under Christ the head.

Question 65: What special benefits do the members of the invisible Church enjoy by Christ?

Answer: The members of the invisible Church, by Christ, enjoy union and communion with him in grace and glory.

– *Westminster Larger Catechism*

The Unity of the Spirit

Scripture for Meditation

Ephesians 3:14–19

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

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Call to Worship

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper He amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and pow'r are great, and, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;
Lord Sabbaoth, His name, from age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.

And though this world with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure:
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly pow'rs, no thanks to them,
abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him who with us
sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still;
His kingdom is forever.

Words and music by Martin Luther, 1483-1546, alt. tune
Translation by Frederick H. Hedge, 1805-1890

Hymn of the Church

I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

I love Thy kingdom, Lord, the house of Thine abode,
The church our blessed Redeemer saved with His own precious
blood.

I love Thy church, O God. Her walls before Thee stand,
Dear as the apple of Thine eye, and written on Thy hand.

For her my tears shall fall, for her my prayers ascend,
To her my cares and toils be giv'n till toils and cares shall end.

Sure as Thy truth shall last, to Zion shall be giv'n
The brightest glories earth can yield and brighter bliss of
Heav'n.

Timothy Dwight, 1752-1817

Prayer of Blessing

Responsive Reading

Ephesians 2:11–22

Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands—remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near.

For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.

In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Hymn of Confession

There Is a Redeemer

There is a redeemer,
Jesus, God's own Son,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
Holy One!

Refrain:

*Thank you, oh my Father,
For giving us Your Son,
And leaving Your Spirit,
'Til the work on earth is done.*

Jesus my redeemer,
Name above all names,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
Hope for sinners slain.

When I stand in Glory,
I will see His face,
There I'll serve my King forever,
In that Holy Place.

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Prayer of Corporate Confession

Silence for Personal Confession

Take a moment for self-reflection, and talk with God quietly about your sin and your need for a Savior.

Assurance of Pardon

Ephesians 1:13, 14

In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Hymn of Good News

There is one Gospel on which I stand
For all eternity
It is my story, my Father's plan
The Son has rescued me
Oh what a Gospel, Oh what a peace
My highest joy and my deepest need
Now and forever He is my light
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

There is one Gospel to which I cling
All else I count as loss
For there, where justice and mercy meet
He saved me on the cross
No more I boast in what I can bring
No more I carry the weight of sin
For He has brought me from death to life
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

There is one Gospel where hope is found
The empty tomb still speaks

For death could not keep my Saviour down
He lives and I am free
Now on my Saviour, I fix my eyes
My life is His and His hope is mine!
For He has promised I, too, will rise
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

And in this Gospel the church is one
We do not walk alone
We have His Spirit as we press on
To lead us safely home
And when in glory still I will sing
Of this old story that rescued me
Praise to my Saviour, the King of life
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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Confession of Faith

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us men for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the

third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And we believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe one holy catholic* and apostolic Church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*universal

"The Nicene Creed originated at the Council of Nicea (325), and an expanded form was adopted by the Council of Chalcedon (451). It was formulated to answer heresies that denied the biblical doctrine of the Trinity and of the person of Christ" (Trinity Hymnal, 846).

Hymn of the Trinity

Wonderful, Merciful Savior

Wonderful, merciful Savior,
Precious Redeemer and Friend;
Who would have thought that a Lamb could
Rescue the souls of men?
O You rescue the souls of men.

Refrain:

*You are the One that we praise;
You are the One we adore.
You give the healing and grace our
Hearts always hunger for,
O our hearts always hunger for.*

Counselor, Comforter, Keeper,
Spirit we long to embrace;
You offer hope when our hearts have
Hopelessly lost the way.
O we hopelessly lost the way.

Almighty, infinite Father,
Faithfully loving Your own,
Here in our weakness You find us
Falling before Your throne,
O we're falling before Your throne.

Dawn Rodgers and Eric Wyse
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Ministry of the Word

Notes

Sunday Service Times

9:15 am Corporate Prayer Service

10:30 am Corporate Worship Service

*A nursery is available for all services. Sunday sermons are available on our website or at ebcupstate.sermonaudio.com.

Emmanuel Bible Church is a community of believers committed to glorifying God by applying the Gospel to every area of life and to making disciples who will love God with all their hearts and their neighbors as themselves.

We are thrilled to be a part of what God is doing in the Upstate. Few things are as exciting as seeing lives and relationships changed through the clear teaching of God's Word. After all, we are made expressly to be in a relationship with Him and to recognize Jesus as our Lord and Savior. At Emmanuel we strive to bring God glory through singing and praying together, hearing His Word preached, loving Him, and loving one another.

We would be delighted to have an opportunity to meet you. We are here to help and encourage you through the teaching of God's Word and through biblical fellowship.

—*Brad Baugham, teaching pastor*

Ministers

The congregation at large

Pastors

Jonathan Bastoni
Brad Baugham
Jared Garcia
Rhett Gieck
David Schwingle

Deacons

Duel Deason, Facilities
Norman Bunn, Facilities

Minister of Worship

Brian Pinner

*Administrative Assistant &
Children's Ministries*

Margaret Bastoni

Nursery Director

Janine Gieck

*Welcome & Greeting
Coordinator*

Sherry Ferguson